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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/688,463

10/16/2000

Gotthard Schmid

A-2570

1413

24131

7590

06/25/2004

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EXAMINER

YAN, REN LUO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 06/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/688,463	Applicant(s) SCHMID, GOTTHARD	
	Examiner Ren L Yan	Art Unit 2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2004.
 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 14 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9 is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10, 11 and 14 is/are rejected.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5-11-2004 has been entered.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Wirz(5,479,856). The patent to Wirz teaches the detailed structure of a sheet printing machine as claimed including a first printing unit 1 having a common impression cylinder 3 and at least four printing devices (5-7) assigned thereto, and a second printing unit 2 selectively coupled with the first printing unit for in-line printing operation by a coupling element 25. The first printing unit 1 has a sheet feeder 9 and the second printing unit 4 has a sheet delivery at 29 and a dryer 33 for drying the printed sheets. The second printing unit is provided with a plurality of zoneless ink metering devices 7 for transferring ink to the plate and blanket cylinders 6 and 5 during printing. With respect to claims 5, 6 and 8, the plate cylinder 6 and rubber blanket cylinders 5 in the second printing unit 2 of Wirz satisfies the requirement. See the drawing figure and column 5, line 25 through column 6, line 27 in Wirz for details.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wirz in view of Kolbe et al(6,016,748). The patent to Wirz teaches all that is claimed except for the use of a chamber type doctor blade engaged with a screen roller. Chamber doctor blade coupled with a screen roller for transferring ink is well known and widely used in printing art. Kolbe et al in Figs. 1-3 show such a well known inking device having a chamber type doctor blade device 14 coupled with a screen roller 10 for metering and transferring ink. It would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to provide the inking device 7 of Wirz with a chamber doctor blade and a screen roller in order to achieve the desired ink quantity transfer outcome.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wirz in view of Hofmann et al(5,503,674). Wirz teaches all that is claimed except that it does not show the detailed structure of the inking unit 7. Hofmann et al teach in a rotary printing press the conventionality of using a trough 10, a dip roller 20 and a metering roller 2 for transferring vanishing fluid to the printing cylinders. See Fig. 3 in Hofmann et al for example. It would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to provide the inking units of Wirz with the trough, the dip roller and the metering roller appropriately disposed as taught by Hofmann et al in order to ensure a proper amount of inking fluid being transferred to the printing cylinders.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wirz. The patent to Wirz teaches all that is claimed except that it does not show the use of flexographic printing cylinders. The present disclosure stated that various types of printing form cylinder can be used for the applicator cylinder of the second printing unit. Since the recited flexographic printing cylinders are well known in the printing art and due to the lack of disclosure showing any criticality, it would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to equip the printing form cylinder 6 in the second printing unit of Wirz with a flexographic printing form based upon the desired printing outcome.

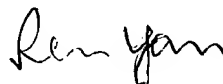
Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wirz in view of Rodi(5,115,741). Wirz teaches all that is claimed except that it does not show the use of an excimer type of dryer for drying the printed sheets. Rodi teaches in a multicolor printing machine the conventionality of using a dryer as illustrated by connecting tubes 16 and 17 after each printing unit 3-6 for drying printed sheets and suggested to use a UV excimer laser as the dryer for ensuring optimum drying of the printed product. See Figs. 1-3 and the paragraph bridging columns 6 and 7 in Rodi for example. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the sheet printing machine of Wirz with a UV excimer laser dryer to dry the printed sheets before the sheets being stacked so as to prevent smearing of the printed images.

Claim 9 is allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ren L Yan whose telephone number is 571-272-2173. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on 571-272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ren L Yan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854

Ren Yan
June 22, 2004